

The Sufficient Word

The Institute for Biblical Counseling & Discipleship • Volume 8, Number 3 • December 2001

Preaching in Prague

In the Czech Republic

IBCD staff members have ministered the Word on three continents: North America, South America and Africa. We now add a fourth: Europe! July 2001 found my wife and me ministering the Word in the Czech Republic. In a land of incredible beauty and a city of cathedrals, castles and concerts, the beauty of the gospel and the comfort of Biblical counseling sounded forth. Four weeks of whirlwind activities cannot be adequately described, but I will give you the highlights.

At the invitation of missionary friends, the Farniks, we went to Prague to work with them and another missionary family, the Andersons. We spent the first week adjusting to jet lag, seeing the city and counseling several couples (Christians and non-Christians). During the second and third weeks, I preached at their church, held long Q&A sessions and enjoyed their fellowship meals. We also had the privilege of seeing Luther's Wittenberg and Wartburg castle, both so important during the Protestant Reformation. It was such an honor to stand in those places, since our understanding of our freedom in Christ largely depends on the historic events that occurred there. We also helped print and produce the *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* syllabus in Czech. May God use it to spread His Word.

The highlight of the visit was a three-day Biblical Counseling Conference, which was videotaped. In spite of the opposition of integrationists, the conference had more than fifty attendees from two countries and seven denominations. Pastors, pro-life work-

ers, psychology majors from universities and others heard the truth.

A seven-day English camp was held during the fourth week. Workers from the U.S.A. and the Czech Republic used English lessons as a means of evangelism. I preached an evangelistic message every evening. Each message centered around the difference between the world's view and God's view on the various stages of human life, from conception and birth right up to death and eternity. The audience was mostly post-communist. Some responded to the gospel that week and are continuing in their new faith.

You had a hand in all this. Please pray that the opposition to Biblical counseling will be defeated. Pray that the evil one will not be able to stir up some in the church against the truth. Pray that the good work of the Andersons and Farniks will bear much fruit. These dear, weary warriors are grateful that you sent us; so are we. May this small start be like the cloud Elijah's servant saw – a swelling cloud that becomes a storm.

9/11 Postscript: Pressing On

After we had adjusted to life back in the States, we were hit by the horror of September 11. May God have mercy on this post-modern, idolatrous nation. The blasphemous service held in the National Cathedral shows how far we have sunk religiously as a nation. We at IBCD know that we serve Jehovah – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who is not the God of “Abraham, Isaac and Mohammed”. We serve the God of the Bible, not the Koran. He

(continued on page 3)



Preaching in Prague

(continued from page 1)

is not only holy, righteous and all-powerful, but also loving, merciful and kind. So we press on.

Due to our Summer Institute 2002, I've had to turn down an offer to teach in Brazil. However, there are two other major projects in the works. In conjunction with Dr. Samuel Ling of China Horizons, who has already translated the *Introduction* syllabus into Mandarin, we hope to have all our course syllabi translated into Mandarin and the four courses videotaped in that language. With the help of Dr. James Newheiser, director of IBCD's North County operations, a team will translate the four syllabi into Spanish and videotape the courses. A missionary in Mexico, David Crum, is close to finishing the translation of the *Introduction* syllabus. Friends, these two language groups make up a large portion of the world's population!

Please pray that God will continue to sustain us and these projects in these difficult times. All missions groups are hit hard, but especially small, financially-challenged ones like IBCD. To God alone be the glory for what he is doing through your partnership with us.

— George C. Scipione



Havalind Farnik in front of statue of John Hus

An Earnest Request

We don't enjoy asking for money, but at this point, we must be humble and ask for your generosity. We recently lost a regular source of substantial funding. Without this support, we don't know how we will continue to serve through the next year. However, we rely on God's faithfulness to provide for us. If you would like to see IBCD continue to train pastors and laypeople, offer counseling free of charge and spread the word about Biblical counseling through our conferences, web site, books and tapes, then please help us. May God be with you as you pray about this request.

We cannot send dramatic photos to assist in our appeal. The changes in counselees' hearts and the changes in the thinking and methods of those whom we train to counsel are not something a camera can capture, but the changes are real and they are important. Many churches send their most difficult cases to us. This year, we have counseled people regarding divorce, rape, physical abuse, depression, anger and other serious problems. Some counselees, by God's grace, have made wonderful progress, while others have not; all have been directed to the Lord and His Word. Pray that our counselors will not grow weary in well-doing.

New IBCD Board Members

IBCD is pleased to announce the addition of three new members to our Board of Directors. Jack Dundas, M.Div., is Library Technical Services Coordinator at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church of America. He has counseled for IBCD since 1992, and is a member of the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC). Ron Martina, Th.G., is the pastor of Reformed Baptist Church in Escondido, CA, and owner of Martina Appraisal Services. Jim Newheiser, D.Min., pastor of Grace Bible Church in Escondido, is the director of North County counseling for IBCD. He has counseled for us since 1994 and answers most of the counseling questions that we

receive by email. He teaches some of our Biblical counseling classes and has supervised several people through their certification process. He is a Fellow in NANC.

The members of the Board who continue to serve are: John Cully, owner of Evangelical Bible Book Store and an elder at Bayview Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Chula Vista, CA; CDR Robert Needham, USN (Ret.), pastor of New Hope OPC in Hanford, CA; Tae Shin, pastor of The Rock Foundation church in Brea, CA; Mark Schroeder, pastor of Harvest OPC in Fallbrook, CA; and Roger Wagner, pastor of Bayview OPC.

The director and staff of IBCD are very grateful to all these men for their wisdom and willingness to serve.